- Lending support to customized health insurance schemes initiated by the states under National rural Health Mission (NRHM).

Recruitment of ASHAs

883. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how many ASHA's have been recruited till now;

(b) the details of their work responsibilities; and

(c) their average remuneration per month?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) 5.43 lakh ASHAs/Link workers have been selected so far.

(b) ASHA is a health activist in the community to create awareness on health, its social determinants and mobilize the community towards local health planning and increased utilization and accountability of the existing health services. Her roles and responsibilities are (i) to create awareness, (ii) To counsel (iii) to mobilize the community and facilitate them in accessing health and health related services, (iv) to work with the Village Health & Sanitation Committee of the Gram Panchayat, (v) Escort and accompany pregnant women & children requiring treatment, (vi) Provide primary medical care for minor illness, (vii) To act as a depot holder for essential provisions (viii) To inform about births and deaths and (ix) to promote construction of household toilets under total sanitation campaign.

(c) ASHA is an honorary volunteer and would not paid any salary or honorarioum. However, ASHA is being compensated for her time in the following situation:

- For duration of training in terms of TA and DA
- For participating in monthly/bi-monthly meetings for udertaking specific health or other social sector programmes with measurable outputs. (Disbursement of compensation to ASHA will be made as per specific payment mechanism built into individual programmes)
- The average remuneration depends on the total performance based payments the the ASHA is entitled to as per the work done by her. It can vary from village to village and ASHA to ASHA.

Promotion of khadi and village industry

†884. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government for the promotion of khadi and village industry every year during the last three years;

(b) whether Government has allocated any fund for this purpose to the State Governments during the above said period;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.